

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Microsoft Project 4 for Windows* by Tim Pyron et al ("Pyron"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant is disappointed that the Examiner's refused applicant's request for clarification of the Examiner's position via a telephone interview. Applicant had not previously requested an interview in this application.

In response to applicant's arguments of June 29, the Examiner states that

Applicant argues that:

a) Pyron does not teach: "user interface for receiving a duration value string that indicates whether a time period duration is estimated:

In this regard, it is noted that the feature is not claimed, what is claimed is: a user interface for receiving a duration value string, where the duration value string is text that indicates the time period duration and whether the time period duration is estimated.

(Office Action, Oct. 12, p. 22.) Applicant is puzzled by the Examiner's response. Claim 1 recites

"a user interface for receiving a duration value string . . . that indicates . . . whether the time period duration is estimated."

In the response of June 29, applicant states that Pyron does not include

"a user interface for receiving a duration value string that indicates whether a time period duration is estimated."

Except for the omitted limitations as indicated by the ellipses, the wording of claim 1 is identical to that used by applicant in the response of June 29. Applicant does not understand the Examiner's position and respectfully requests clarification.

It appears to be the Examiner's position that Pyron's "45d" or "3w" corresponds to applicant's "duration value string" as recited by the claims. Assuming this correspondence,

there is nothing in "45d" that indicates "whether the time period duration is estimated," as recited by the claims. An example of text that indicates "whether the time period duration is estimated" is the "?" in the string "2wks?" as shown on page 7 of applicant's specification. Applicant respectfully requests clarification.

Applicant is confused by the following explanation provided by the Examiner:

. . . Pyron teaches Creating New Toolbars, page 623 and Adding New Buttons to Toolbars and Customizing Buttons, page 626, thus, it is just a matter of adding a new button or customizing an existing button with some symbol or alpha on its face, such as & or E {page 473, last para, lines 3-6}, representing something like Estimate or Estimated values, attaching some string to it, such as 45d or 45 days etc., and when the button is activated, clicking by a mouse, the user receiving the result as &45d or &45 days or E45d or E45days appearing under the Duration box, pointing or indicating that 45d or 45days is estimate or estimated value of duration.

(Office Action, Oct. 12, 2004, pp. 22-23, emphasis added.) The Examiner is suggesting that one could modify Pyron to have a button that one could click after entering "45d," and after the button is clicked, Pyron would display "E45d" to indicate that the value is estimated.

First, it is clear that the Examiner is suggesting a modification to Pyron because it does not "identically disclose" the invention. If Pyron does not identically disclose the invention, then a 102(b) rejection is inappropriate.

Second, the Examiner has pointed to no suggestion, teaching, or motivation to make the modification that the Examiner suggests. Pyron does not teach or suggest input or display of "E45d" with the "E" indicating estimated. It is only applicant's specification that teaches such display or input.

Third, the "&" in "&Bid" that the Examiner points to on page 473 of Pyron indicates that a table named "Bid" can be selected by the letter "B." The "&" has nothing to do with duration period or estimated durations. Applicant does not understand the relevance of the Examiner's reliance on this "&."

More fundamentally, applicant can find nothing in Pyron where a user indicates that a duration is estimated and where "an estimated duration character is shown." Each of the claims recites these one or the other of the concepts.

Based upon these remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

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Respectfully submitted,

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